

CHURCH OF GOD

Evangel

THE FALL
OF JERICO.

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June 3, 1957



JUNE

By Mrs. Avis Swiger

*And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then heaven tries earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays;
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten.*

—Lowell

JUNE IS CONSIDERED ONE of the loveliest months of the year by all ages and classes of people. It is lovely to the youth because it is the favorite time for weddings. The tradition that June is a lucky time for saying the marriage vows goes back to the early Roman times.

To the garden lover, June is a wonderful month because more and lovelier flowers bloom in that thirty-day period than during any other similar period. The rose, the sweetheart of all flowers, is especially beautiful during June.

Vacation is the word that has the sweetest melody to the children. Since June means freedom from the classroom and time for the great outdoors, it is a very special time to our "citizens of tomorrow."

This prize month of the year received its name either from the queen of the gods, Juno, or from Juniors, which meant "young men." Juno was the goddess of marriage and it would seem likely that the idea of June's fitness for weddings could have come down to us from her.

Romulus is said to have divided the men of Rome into two groups, old men and young. The old men, called Majors, became counselors and the youth, the Juniors, were used for war. June was dedicated to the Juniors, hence the possibility of the name. May was dedicated to the Majors and, it is possible, was named for them.

The outstanding special day of the month is Flag Day, June 14. On this day in 1777 the Continental Congress officially adopted our flag. It then had only thirteen stars but in other respects it is still much the same today. The day is generally celebrated by displaying flags and the giving of pageants that tell the story of our flag.

Most important of all, June is the ideal month for young ministers to start their work. If they cannot find a church in which to preach, there is plenty of space in God's great open air!

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CHURCH OF GOD

Evangel

America's Oldest Pentecostal Publication

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Published Weekly by
The Church of God Publishing House
E. C. Thomas, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription, per year	\$2.00
Single Copy	.05

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917. Authorized August 23, 1918.

Ye Must Be Born Again

By Rev. C. E. Landreth
Pastor, Clinton, South Carolina

John 3:7, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

SAID D. L. MOODY, "I was twenty years old before I ever heard a sermon on regeneration. I was always told to be good; but you might as well tell a black man to be white, as to tell him to be good without telling how. You might as well tell a slave to be free, but that would not make him free. We are a bad lot—the whole of us—by nature. It is astonishing how the devil blinds us and makes us think we are so naturally good. Don't talk to me about people being naturally good. We are naturally bad, the whole of us. The first man born of a woman was a murderer. Sin leaped into the world full grown, and the whole race has been bad all the way down. I have heard of reform, reform, until I am tired and sick of the whole thing. It is regeneration by the power of the Holy Ghost that we need."

Modern liberal theology of today denies the importance of the new birth. It is not in accord with their teachings, that man is by nature good. They say that man may attain perfection by natural growth, and deny the radical evil of the human race. They assume that our nature is a good seed which needs only favorable external influences of moisture and sunshine to bring forth good fruit. But human nature is a damaged seed, and what comes of it will be decayed and stunted like itself. The doctrine of mere development denies God's holiness, man's sin, the need of Christ, the necessity of the atonement, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the justice of a penalty.

A radical change is requisite in every human soul. Holiness cannot be attained by a merely natural growth or development, since man's natural tendencies are wholly in the direction of selfishness. There must be a reversal of his inmost dispositions and principles of action, if he is to see the kingdom of God. We cannot cure the barren tree by giving it new bark or new branches. It must have new sap. Healing snakebite is not killing the snake. Frost cannot be removed from the windowpane simply by scratching it away; you must raise the temperature of the room. It



is just so important that we be "born again," or we cannot see the kingdom of God.

The importance of the new birth follows from what Scripture teaches us concerning the natural condition of man. Man has a sinful and depraved nature. He is morally depraved. Moral depravity consists in selfishness; in a state of voluntary committal of the will to self-gratification. It is a refusal to consecrate the whole being to the highest well-being of God and the universe, and consecrating it to the gratification of self. Moral depravity is a sinfully committed state of the will to self-indulgences. Therefore, it surely is impossible that a world of unholy and selfish beings should be happy, and it is impossible that heaven should be made up of such unholy and selfish beings.

Holiness is the indispensable condition of securing divine favor, attaining peace of conscience, and enjoying fellowship with God. The condition of man is by nature both in disposition and act, exactly the opposite of that holiness which is so indispensable. Man is described as dead through trespasses and sins, and this condition calls for nothing less than a restoration to life. If God demands holiness, and man is not holy, then there must be a change in the individual. A radical internal change is necessary, a change by which the whole disposition of the soul is altered.

Some men may think they have a "divine spark" and have no need of the new birth, but the Bible teaches that man is totally helpless without God. You must believe in the new birth if you are to believe the Word of God. Take the new birth away, and we have no way of obtaining favor with God. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot

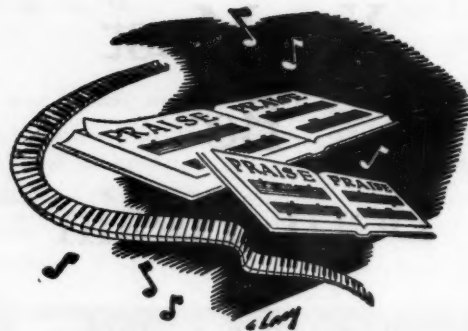
enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:3-7). "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil?" (Jeremiah 13:23). "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:8). "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing" (Romans 7:18). The mind is so darkened that we cannot apprehend spiritual truth; the heart is so deceitful that it cannot welcome God; there is no thought of God before the eyes of the natural, sinful man.

The holiness of God alone is enough to prove the importance of the new birth. "Without holiness no man shall see God" (Hebrews 12:14); and if holiness is not to be attained by any natural development or self-effort, then the regeneration of our nature is absolutely necessary. This change, which enables us to be holy, takes place when we are born again.

"O Lord God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this" (Ezra 9:15). Man is conscious that he does not have holiness by nature. He is conscious, too, that he must have it in order to appear before God. The Scriptures corroborate this consciousness in man, and, still further, state the necessity of such a righteousness with which to appear before God. In the new birth alone is the beginning of such a life to be found. To live the life of God, we must have the nature of God. God is so holy He cannot look upon sinful man, and if we are to have His favor and approval, we must be regenerated by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Not only does the sinfulness of man and the holiness of God prove the importance of the new birth, but Jesus, when talking to Nicodemus, declared that man *must* be born again in order to be fit for the kingdom of God. Jesus demands this in the clearest of terms in John 3:3: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." This statement is absolute and leaves no room for any exception. Paul also discusses the subject and demands that man must be born again in order to have peace with God. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature" (Galatians 6:15). No condition, position, sex, age, or anything else can exempt anyone from this necessity. It is absolute and imperative. Nothing else can take its place. Education, morality, religion, orthodoxy, baptism, reform; none of these or all of them together are sufficient. Not to be born again is to be lost eternally. There is no substitute for the new birth. You must accept this way if you are to be saved from eternal damnation. It is impossible to become a Christian without believing in the new birth. It is the only door to salvation, and if you do not enter there, you may not and cannot enter at all.



PERHAPS THE GREATEST of the basic functions of music is worship. It has been said that "worship is emotional; music is the language of the emotions; therefore, music is the language of worship. In worship there is no force greater than the power of music, which in its divine inspiration can be a stronger force than the spoken word" (*Guideposts for Ministers of Song*).

It is generally argued that music prepares one for worship. We can go even farther than that and say that certain Spirit-inspired music is a means of worship within itself. Worship should make us God-conscious instead of self-conscious, and therefore enable us to take in strength from contact with God so that we may go out to live by His will and serve His purposes in human society. Nothing will cause us to forget about ourselves any more than listening to Spirit-inspired music. Greater still is the force when we participate in singing hymns of praise unto God.

There is no force greater than the power of music, to be used in causing people to forget themselves. The church should make the greatest use possible of this very powerful force in its fight against evil. Music was given to man as a means to aid in the worship and service of Christ. God never intended for music to be used to degrade man.

Music will draw us heavenward if it is the right kind of music, performed in such a manner as to make us God-conscious. Too often, music that is performed in church directs our attention to the music itself or to the one who is doing the performing. When this is true, the act of worship cannot take place. Just because music is performed in church does not make it church music. The ideal music of worship should wring from the hearer the cry, "How good and how great is the Lord God!" instead of "How good this music makes me feel or how wonderful the singers performed this morning!"

In a sermon preached by Lavington, September 8, 1725, on the influence of church music, we find these words, "Music is a twoedged sword; capable of quelling the passions, and of giving a mortal wound to virtue and religion, and therefore should always be in sober hands—quick and powerful, and penetrating the minutest parts of the body, and inmost recesses of the spirit, when employed under the banners of religion; but likewise searching and irritating every evil

The Ministry of Music in Worship

By A. T. Humphries

PART II

thought, and intention of the heart, when debauch'd into the service of immorality and profaneness. What ought to kindle a devout affection, may blow up every evil desire into a flame, may be the fuel and incentive of vice."

Such a powerful force as music should never be in the hands of those who are not sincere. Sincerity must be the basis of all church music. The music in the hands of an insincere person can be used as an instrument of Satan. The musical part of our worship services oftentimes are perverted by Satan to his own use. Satan knows of the power of music, and he is constantly making use of it. He knows that he can not lure Christians into places of iniquity to listen to his music, so he comes to church and tries to pervert the music there. He is constantly seeking means to keep people from worshiping God. If he can get into the arrangements of the musical program, then he has won a victory. If Satan can succeed in causing the song leader to draw attention to himself instead of lifting the name of Jesus up, a victory has been won. If he can cause the choir to be half prepared or if he can cause the special groups or soloists to select songs that will glorify self instead of pointing souls to God, he has won another victory. Oftentimes he causes people to miss a true blessing from God by substituting something that will stir the emotions momentarily but will leave the person empty of a real blessing. God intended for music to stir our emotions in such a way that they can be directed to worshiping Him. When a song leader can cause people to forget themselves and sing praises unto God, their emotions are stirred and under Spirit-inspired leadership their attentions can be directed toward worshiping God. This kind of song leader can be an effective instrument in the hands of God.

The major objective of preaching should not be a great sermon, but a new man in Christ Jesus. The major objective of singing should not be a lovely song, but rather hearts and lives reached for Christ. Much preparation should go into the musical part of our services. This preparation should be both technical and spiritual.

GOD IS WORTHY of our best. He expects our "firstfruits," the best that we have. This is definitely true in the music of our church. We cannot

expect God to pour out His blessings if we come before Him with a half-prepared musical program and especially one that is not Christ-centered. There should be as much time spent in the preparation of the music as there is in the preparation of the sermon. As much time should be spent in prayer by the minister of music as by the minister of the Word. It is not logical for the minister of the Word to spend years in preparation for his work and hours in prayer and study for the preparation of the sermon to be delivered on Sunday and then have over half the time taken up by music for which very little preparation has been made. God is not pleased with such a program.

On the other hand, God has always placed His stamp of approval upon well-prepared, Spirit-inspired music. A fine example of this is found in 2 Chronicles 5:11-14. It was on the dedication day of the temple. The temple choir and orchestra had spent much time in rehearsal and prayer. They were sanctified for this work. They were chosen because of their ability from the Levitical family. They were arrayed in white linen and were in their places at the east end of the altar. There were 4,000 people participating, both vocalists and instrumentalists, and 288 of these were teachers and directors. Each had a definite job to do. There were also 120 priests sounding with trumpets. The Scriptures state that when the priests sounded their trumpets and "the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth forever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God."

This happened some 4,000 years ago, and it also happens today when the singers, instrumentalists, preachers, and congregation become as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord. This is what happens in our camp meetings and General Assembly when everyone participates in singing and worshiping the Lord. The very instant we become as one in praising and thanking the Lord, the Holy Ghost takes over and showers of blessings fall. These kinds of services are not accidental; they don't "just happen." God ordained that preparation be made to worship Him, and since music is the language of worship, He expects much preparation to be put into our musical services. We find that the musicians in the Bible were chosen people; they were of the Levitical family, appointed to do a specific work for which they were full-time workers who gave such time as was necessary to perform their duties. Sometimes this required working day and night. Not only were they appointed from the Levitical family, educated, and trained and gave all their time, they were also consecrated wholly unto the Lord.

God's stamp of approval is upon music that is rightly performed and also upon the performer when he has met God's conditions.



THE FALL OF JERICHO

By

Mrs. Ruth Starnes

"So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city," Joshua 6:20.

MOSES, THE GREAT lawgiver and leader of Israel was dead. The people mourned for Moses, but even though God's leaders must sometimes die before their task is accomplished, God's work must go on. The great purposes of God shall not fall in being accomplished. God had prepared another man here to step in the breach and fill the vacancy left by the death of Moses. After a period of mourning, the Israelites remained encamped on the plains of Moab, awaiting the order to advance into the land of Canaan. At length the order from God came to Joshua, "Arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel."

Joshua, the son of Nun, was of the tribe of Ephraim. He must have been born in Egypt where his parents were in slavery. He was nearly forty years of age when he shared in the hurried triumph of the exodus. Joshua was first mentioned at the battle with Amalek, where he led the forces of Israel. He became the servant of Moses, accompanying him part of the way up Mt. Sinai when the Decalogue was given and also attended Moses at the tent of meeting where God gave His commands for Israel. He was one of the spies sent from Kadesh to view the land of Canaan; and along with Caleb gave a good report of the land. This resulted in these two men being permitted to enter the Promised Land, while all the other adults of their generation perished in the wilderness. Joshua was divinely appointed and ordained as successor of Moses, this appointment being recognized with acclamations by the people, who readily covenanted their obedience. When the time of Moses' death was at hand he had given Joshua a solemn charge before all Israel. "And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of

a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it," Deuteronomy 31:7.

Joshua assumed command of the people at Shittim. The day was appointed for passage of the Jordan. The ark of the covenant was borne in solemn state by the priests, before the people on their march to the river's brink. No sooner had the feet of the priests touched the water than the course of the river at that point was stayed. The waters parted, allowing the Israelites to go over on dry land in the midst of the river's bed. The priests bearing the ark left the river's bed after Israel had passed over and the waters resumed their natural course. As a standing memorial of this great miracle, twelve large stones from the bed of the river were set up in the plain as a sign to coming generations.

When Joshua was one day surveying the strong defences of Jericho, he was visited by the Captain of the Lord's host. He told Joshua to take off his sandals for the ground he was standing on was holy. This Person was probably the same one who appeared to Moses out of the burning bush. His object was to encourage Joshua by directing his attention to the fact that he would not take Jericho by his own skill or that of his forces, but the Lord who had covenanted to bestow the land upon them would give victory by their dependence upon Him. Joshua had an understanding of the purpose of God. He had the assurance that God's presence would go with him. He had faith in the promises of God. It is a good thing to have close contact with God in order to meet the crises of life. Faith and courage are essential to the battles of life which must be encountered in the Christian race. An obedient life produces a blessed experience in the plan of God. Regardless of how much strife and turmoil the enemy may cause, the eternal God still rules in the heavens and His eyes are upon those whose hearts are perfect toward Him!

JERICO IS CALLED "the city of the moon" and also "a fragrant place." It was surrounded by palm trees of many varieties, thickly dotted about in pleasant gardens. Jericho was a city of antiquity, situated in a plain traversed by Jordan. It was five miles west of Jordan where that stream empties into the Dead Sea. Its walls were so large houses were built upon them. It had an outer wall six feet thick, an inner wall twelve feet thick, the two walls fifteen feet apart, both about thirty feet high. It was built of brick four inches thick and one to two feet long with the spaces filled with mud mortar. The two walls were linked together with the houses built on top.

It had a king and town life began here at an extremely early age. In the time of Solomon it was a flourishing city, exporting spices and balsam. There were also figs, rose plants, cypress and many other noted plants. It was backed by the heights of the wilderness of Judea and fed by the springs leaping out of its hills. Its soil and warm climate were conducive to the cultivation of fruit and grains. Josephus says it had a wonderful climate scarcely matched any-

where. No wonder such pleasure-loving personalities as Cleopatra and Herod enjoyed wintering at Jericho.

Under Herod the Great, Jericho rose to importance. It was full of treasures of all kinds and had valuable revenues. Herod built a fort there, which he named Cyprus, in honor of his mother. In the immediate vicinity the sons of the prophets sought retirement from the world. Elisha healed the spring of water here. Over against the city beyond Jordan, Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. Joshua made this his headquarters after the Israelites' entry into Canaan. It was destroyed by the Israelites but later rebuilt, for Jesus visited the city during His ministry. Here Jesus restored sight to the blind man. Between Jericho and Jerusalem lay the scene of Christ's story of the Good Samaritan. Here, Christ accepted the hospitality of Zacchaeus, the publican.

In spite of its greatness, Jericho was a doomed city at the time of Joshua's conquest. The sentence of death had been passed upon the people, yet they were still glorying in their strength. Jericho was strongly fortified by art and nature, it was shut up so that none went out or came in. The people trusted in the strength of its walls and their hearts were hardened to their own destruction. The inhabitants of Jericho could well illustrate the vain efforts of proud sinners trying to shut themselves within the walls of their own self-righteousness. Many in this age are reveling in debauchery, trying to belittle sin by denying it or else excusing it.

God resolved that Israel should be master over Jericho. The Lord assured Joshua of victory over the city



by His arm which was made bare to fight for His chosen people. To prove this, means were to be taken in the siege of Jericho which would be wholly ineffective under ordinary circumstances. No trenches were to be dug or any military preparations made. Instead, the army was directed to march around the city in solemn state for six successive days, preceded by the ark, before which went seven priests with ram's horn trumpets in their hands. This seemingly idle parade possibly aroused the curiosity of the inhabitants, who we may believe crowded the walls to behold the spectacle. On the seventh day this parade was repeated seven times, and at the completion of the seventh circuit, the priests blew a long blast with their trumpets, the people shouted a tremendous shout, and the walls of the strong city fell down flat! This was indeed a strange assault; yet God's power was magnified. The ark was a token of the presence of God. The inhabitants were exposed, so the Israelites slew every living creature with the sword, except the family of Rahab.

When Joshua sent men to spy out the land of Jericho, Rahab had concealed them from the authorities of the land, thus preserving their lives. She had also given them the encouraging information that the Canaanites were already afraid. "Your terror is fallen upon us," she said, "and all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. As soon as we had heard the things God had done for you, our hearts did melt; neither did there remain any more courage in any man because of you; for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above and in the earth beneath." She foresaw the conquest and sought the favor of the conquerors. She had endangered her life for the spies, now she pled for the preservation of her own. The scarlet cord which Rahab used to let the men out her window to safety was to be the token of her redemption. She tied the cord out the window so no soldier might do violence to the house. This was the basis of her safety and also that of her people. Thus, Rahab, the harlot, became Rahab the mother of Boaz, who was an ancestor of Christ.

In a spiritual sense the world is in darkness today. The race of mankind is under the condemnation of sin. The only safety for us is the refuge provided for man through faith in the blood of Jesus, which He shed for the sins of the world. By faith and not force the walls of Jericho fell. By faith and not works we receive pardon for sin. It is said that faith thrives best in trouble's waters. The Good Shepherd knows which pastures are best for His sheep, and they must faithfully follow Him. Remember, we must by many tribulations press our way into the kingdom of God. We have tasks utterly beyond our unaided strength. The only possible effect of human effort is but to raise a dust which obscures the view of God's salvation. Shrink not from obedience to God's commands. We have a reward awaiting those who are faithful at the end of this age. The ones who endure to the end are going to be saved. Let us not give up in the battle but lean heavily upon the everlasting arms of Jesus, in whom we may find a sure refuge.

Finding Christ Behind Prison Bars

*Testimonies of saving grace in the Citrus
Center State Prison, La Belle, Florida*

AS PASTOR of the La Belle Church of God, I am happy to report the good work our church is doing with our extension department. Every first and third Saturday nights our church is in charge of the services at the Citrus Center Prison Camp. We have good attendance at every service.

I am sending you some pictures of one of the devotional services. There were 27 prisoners present and 19 church workers. Five of these were present for the first time. Brother Ben Carter started the work while he was pastor here. When Brother Carter moved, Brother D. R. Gant took charge. As I am pastor now, I am really enjoying the good work.

We certainly appreciate Warden Alford Wells. He has been very cooperative with us. The prisoners have been permitted to attend Y.P.E. services several times. They have a choir and everyone really enjoys the wonderful singing. The warden and the choir came to Y.P.E. and showed a movie of the Apalachee Institution. This institution is a great asset to the State, and is doing a wonderful work for the young men. They are able to obtain a high-school education and are trained to farm, make bricks and concrete blocks, build houses, and many other things. One of the prisoners, Jimmy Porter, is a member of the La Belle Church of God. He seems to be very happy in his experience, and is a real blessing to the inmates. The church would appreciate the prayers of everyone concerning our work for God.

—V. G. Helms, pastor

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The efforts of the Churches of God in La Belle and Fort Myers to bring God's Word into our lives has surely been a blessing to me and all the men here at the Citrus Center State Prison Camp.

The services are well-attended and regular due to the especially fine efforts of Brother Helms and Sister Rudd, Sister Dees, Sister Ballard, Ruby Dees and Jackie Ballard of La Belle and Brother Luke Skinner, Sister Skinner and their family and Lavonne of Ft. Myers.

We are grateful for the shining example of the past ministers, the Reverend Ben W. Carter who laid the groundwork of our present services and the Reverend Mr. Gant who continued after his transfer. We praise God for these wonderful people and pray that their efforts will help us to follow in their



Time for worship and study at the Citrus Center Prison Camp. The man that has the bow tie on is Brother Luke Skinner. He has been a real blessing with the choir from the beginning of the work.



footsteps so that we, too, can be "God's children." We thank Him for all the other blessings He has given us and pray that we might be more worthy of them. Please pray that we will. Bless His wonderful name!
—W. A. Clark

I have always had respect for the belief of God, but until my confinement to prison I had not had the privilege to really walk closely with the Lord, and am yet not walking as closely as I would desire. The Church of God has sought to help me place Christ first through their fellowship as they develop a faith for me to live by to help me witness the Christian life to others, become a Christian citizen, and develop concern for others and share in fellowship and trust, to follow Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. Bless His precious name.

I have only the kindest words for Brother Skinner and his wonderful family from Ft. Myers, and for Brother Gant with his fine group. I am just as sure that Brother Helms will continue to carry on this fine work of the Church of God to lead these lost souls to a life with Jesus. It is my decision that I can be about as happy as I make up my mind to be, for it is not so much what happens, as what is in the heart of me.
—Robert DeLoge

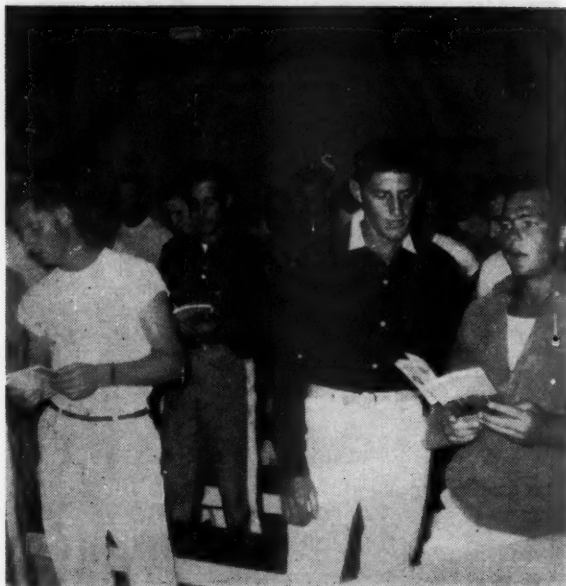
This is a letter of appreciation for two of God's representatives and their families—the Reverend Mr.



Skinner and family of Fort Myers and the Reverend Mr. Gant and family of Lake Placid (formerly of La Belle).

Words alone cannot express the hope, exaltation, and anticipation occasioned by their faithfully regular visits to bring us God's Word.

I have been at this State Road prison for almost one year and can truthfully say that the spiritual uplifting I have experienced in that time can be attributed to the efforts of these good people. This



is my personal testimony, but I have watched many of the other inmates here respond to the individual personalities of the Reverend Mr. Skinner and the Reverend Mr. Gant, and as a result, come to know the Word of the Lord. I accepted Christ as my Saviour while clasping hands with Brother Gant through a steel-barred door and will be eternally grateful to the Lord for affording me with the opportunity to do so before it was too late to save my soul.

I feel that too much in the way of praise cannot be said for these warm-hearted, very kind and most unselfish Christians and workers for the Lord.

—E. G. McKee

I have been in prison ten years and I had what I then considered some pretty close friends. But I did not know what friendship was in comparison with the Christians that bring the Word to this prison camp.

Since I've found and accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour, I've found friendship beyond compare. Please let me take this opportunity to tell you, and everyone who reads the *Evangel* about one Christian family in particular who comes a long way to have fellowship and prayer with us. I don't feel that I could give them enough praise and could express the sweet friendship and love that we get from them. We thank God for the Skinner family from Ft. Myers. I would also like to say that God has seen fit to use me among these unfortunate men, and one of the biggest (longest) spiritual assistants I have, besides the Christians who bring us the Word of God, is the *Evangel*. I personally have distributed the *Evangel*s sent here over a year now by our state overseers, the Reverend A. M. Phillips and the Reverend Earl P. Paulk, Sr.,

and can tell you they are warmly appreciated. I say "our" overseers because I've been allowed to join the Church of God in La Belle. I am sending along a poem written by one of our members here which I thought might be enjoyed by others

—James E. Porter

THE MAN ON THE CROSS

He came to the world to heal and save the lost,
This is the Man they nailed to the cross.
They laughed, and they mocked, and cursed His race,
And were pleased with the pain they saw on His face.
And through all this, He still remained true,
And said, "Forgive them, Father, they know not
what they do."

This was He who came to save the lost,
This was the "King" they nailed to the cross.

—Tony Gumm

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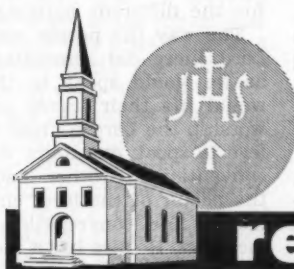
National Sunday School and Youth Board Enjoys Profitable and Pleasant Session

In its second meeting of the current church year, the National Sunday School and Youth Board, very much aware of its responsibility in the planning and promoting of the Sunday School and youth program of the Church, carefully considered and passed several measures of vital importance.

The *Lamplighter Sparks* program received the final approval of the board, and this club activity, designed for ages 5-7, will be introduced to the churches in printed form within a very few days. With the completion of the *Lamplighter Sparks* program, the Church of God Sunday School and Youth Department now has *Lamplighter Club* activity for ages 5-20 years (*Lamplighter Sparks*, 5-7 years; *Junior Lamplighters Clubs*, 8-11 years; *Senior Lamplighters Clubs*, 12-15 years; and *Lamplighters*

Youth Fellowship, 16-20 years.)

Another item of importance that was discussed in the January 22-23 board sessions was the institution of the Y.W.E.A. program (*Youth World Evangelism Appeal*). In co-operation with the Foreign Missions Department and the Evangelism Committee, the National Sunday School and Youth Department will suggest various projects which can be sponsored by local Sunday Schools and youth groups. Methods of promotion will also be given.



reports

Consideration was given to the matter of Christian education as pertains to training Christian education directors for the local churches. This item will be discussed at length in the next board session.

Among other items of importance which were passed by the board and which will benefit the Sunday School and youth program of the Church throughout the nation were: the designation of October, 1957, as Branch Sunday School Month; the laying of plans for a big nationwide Sunday School contest in the fall of 1957; and the setting of a national Sunday School total attendance goal for 1957 of 10,500,000.

The Church of God in general can be justly proud of the capable, congenial, and consecrated men who form this important national board.

—O. W. Polen,

National S. S. and Youth Director
Chairman, National Board



Seated, left to right: Ralph E. Day; Cecil B. Knight, Assistant National Director; O. W. Polen, National Director; Clara Yecha, Secretary; Earl T. Golden. Standing left to right: Earl P. Paulk, Jr.; Donald Aultman; W. P. Stanley, Editor, Sunday School Literature and Associate Board Member. Not shown in picture: Lewis J. Willis, Editor, "Lighted Pathway," Associate Board Member.

My Trip to the British West Indies

On February 15, 1957, in Miami, Florida, 9:45 a.m., I boarded a Pan-American airplane for Havana, Cuba. I was met by Brother Hoyle Case, overseer of the island, and two of his pastors. We were soon in the car and on our way to the local pastor's home and a good meal. I enjoyed two days with these good folk in Havana. Brother Case is a fine Christian, pastor, and overseer, and the work there is making progress under his leadership. He is making plans to open other churches on the island—one of Satan's seats—where almost six million people live in gross sin and

poverty and know practically nothing about God.

We had to arise early Sunday morning to catch the plane headed for Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I had a three-hour layover in Camaguey, Cuba; I tried to find a church around the airport, but failed, so I read my Bible and had a little service in the waiting room. Our plane arrived around 1:00 p.m. and we were soon on our way. The sun was shining so warm and bright on the outside, and within my soul I felt at peace with God and mankind. At 2:00 p.m. we arrived in Kingston, Jamaica; I had not known I would be routed that way, so I did not make plans for a service or to meet any of our people there. I am sorry I missed that opportunity. However, I was soon on my way again and at 3:00 p.m., we arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

I felt highly honored when a fine group of ministers met me: Brother and Sister James Beaty, Overseer of Haiti; Sister Odine Morse, teacher in the school; Brother A. W. Brummett, Overseer of B.W.I.; Brother James Stephens, Overseer of Indiana; and two of his fine pastors. They all gave me a hearty welcome and I soon felt right at home. We then started for our church headquarters, going through the city and then up a winding road, up and up a mountain. My, what a beautiful place, overlooking the city, with the waters beyond and the boats on the water! It did not take me long to find that Brother and Sister Beaty with their fine help are doing a good work in Haiti. Brother and Sister Coleman, their assistants, have not been there long, but they are getting right into the work. Sister Odine Morse, one of the finest Christian young ladies I have ever met, is really on the job there and knows what she is doing. She and Sister Beaty were so kind to show me around when the brethren were busy with their business meetings in the convention. I appreciated it so very much. I was privileged to visit one of the Riverside memorial buildings. I went in alone and knelt to pray, and the Lord flooded my soul with His presence. I recalled how the people

at home had worked to send money for the different buildings.

The way the people worship the Lord there did something to me; as we would speak to them they would lift their hands and really worship the Lord. (I had the privilege to speak one night during the convention.) Brother LaCombe is the pastor of the local church and has a fine congregation of 1,000 members. He also has a nice church building. The convention was wonderful and the workers seem to be doing their best, but they need more workers. The L.W.W.B. had a revival before we went over, and I understand that 110 people received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

We enjoyed four wonderful days in the Beaty home and going to the convention. They were so nice to us; we will never forget them. Then Brother Brummett and I had to get on our way to the Dominican Republic, and they took us to the airport. While waiting for the plane, I especially noticed one thing—there was no one in the place smoking. In fact, on my whole trip I don't think I saw over 20 people smoking. It was wonderful not to be smothered in smoke while traveling.

About 3:30 p.m. Brother Brummett and I boarded the Pan-American clipper for Trujillo, Dominican Republic and another convention. The mountains were beautiful as we flew over them. At one time the announcer said that we were flying over a lake 200 feet below sea level. We soon landed and after getting through the customs office, which always takes some time, we were met by Brother Horton, overseer of the work there, who took us out to his house where we met his nice family and enjoyed a good meal.

We had a great convention in this place, also. The way those people sing and clap their hands in worship to the Lord would thrill anyone's heart. I love them all for the way they praise and love our Christ. It seems everyone enters into the worship. We had to speak through an interpreter but they were so attentive, hanging on to every word, then praising the Lord for it. I had the privilege of seeing

a Spanish wedding during this convention; this was very impressive, indeed. I have a little 8-mm camera, so I took pictures of the wedding, as well as of many other interesting sights during my two weeks' stay on the islands.

Trujillo is a very beautiful city with many scenes of interest. We went through an old cathedral which the guide said was over 400 years old. It seemed to be still in good condition, even to the pews and furnishings on the inside. In this Catholic church I made pictures of the bronze casket of Christopher Columbus.

There were other visitors from the States in this convention: Brother and Sister Sharp and Sister Heil from Michigan. It was nice to meet them and enjoy the convention together. Brother W. D. Alton, former Overseer of the Dominican Republic, who at present has charge of the school in San Juan, also came to the convention and served as interpreter. After being with him only a short time I felt as if I had known him all my life.

The Hortons brought us to the airport and we were off again, Brother Brummett, Brother Alton, and I, this time for San Juan. This was Monday afternoon late. As we flew above the clouds and watched the sun set, I thought of the greatness of God and of the wonderful things He had made—things I had seen and the things I had not seen. I felt so fortunate to know, belong to, and love Him.

Arriving at San Juan, Puerto Rico, we were met by the overseer, Brother Tony Collazo, Sister Alton, Sister Fay and others. We had a nice room at the Columbus Hotel during our stay there. Sister Alton had us out for a nice chicken dinner.

We had another great convention there in San Juan. Brother Collazo and Brother Alton are capable leaders and work together beautifully. Sister Fay is also a great asset to the work, teaching in the school. Young men and women who leave home and all that is dear to their hearts to help on the missions fields certainly have my admiration. I appreciated the privilege to speak two nights in

this convention. The dear Lord blessed us and my heart was made to rejoice again as I watched the natives clap their hands in worship to Him! An old lady 120 years old, still very spry, would stand up before the audience and clap her hands and praise the Lord. The L.W.W.B. in this place worked for months in preparation to feed the people coming to the convention, free. Is not that a commendable gesture of hospitality?

Friday noon I left San Juan for Miami, 1,040 miles in a non-stop flight. Here I had to leave Brother Brummett who was going to the Virgin Islands. I enjoyed traveling with him and appreciated his kindness to me. I have known him for several years, but did not fully realize what a fine Christian and efficient worker he is. He has the work at heart; as I would hear him groaning during the nights I knew he was carrying a load. He cannot do all that he would like to do because of insufficient funds. May we all do more for missions! On the way back to Miami we flew 18,000 feet, way above the clouds, and they were beautiful. I arrived in Miami safe and sound after exactly two weeks. I asked the Lord each time I flew to protect me, and He did. I praise Him!

In closing I should like to say a few things to our people here in the States. Our church at Riverside, Georgia, does as much for missions as any other church in the movement, I suppose, but after seeing what I have on this trip, I realize how little we are doing. I have never had anything to affect me as this trip has. I feel that we must do more for the cause of Christ. I think I cried more in the past two weeks than I have in ten years before this. We are in a land of plenty, with churches by the thousands. We beg and plead with people to come to church, even offer prizes, and still many times we cannot fill the building. On the islands all one has to do is to announce a service, and the building is filled and running over. The night I spoke in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the pastor said there were twelve hundred in the building. There was hardly room to walk in the doors; the windows and aisles were full.

One young man said he traveled three days to get to the convention. I cannot keep the tears back as I review in my mind the things I saw while on those islands.

During the convention in the Dominican Republic there was a discussion concerning a group of people who had no shepherd and who could be won for the Church of God. A young native man stood up and said that although he had a small-paying job he would give it up and take the little church, with no promise of a living; in fact, there were no funds to help him. I planned then to do something about that situation, and last Sunday when I told about it in our church, a nice couple, members of our church, stood up and said they would support him. Praise the Lord!

Every church that possibly can should send their pastor on a trip to these islands. If this could happen, it would not be long until the Church of God would be a greater missions movement than it has ever been before. There would probably be tens of thousands of souls saved that may otherwise be lost. Riverside Church sent me, and I appreciate it so much and will forever be grateful to them.

The overseers of the islands are happy for our ministers to visit them. Brother Brummett invited me back next year, to go to some of the other islands, and although I have a few years behind me, I shall be happy to go again if the Lord makes a way for me. That is the reason I cannot retire; the fire is burning in my soul and I can't quit!

May the Lord richly bless all the folks on these islands and give our workers many souls for their labor of love, is my sincere wish and prayer for them. There are 652 preachers in the B.W.I., 28,000 members and 50,000 followers.

—G. R. Watson, Box 44, Bolton, Ga.

Colorado State Prayer Conference

The evening of January 14, 1957, began the State Prayer conference in beautiful Colorado. The State

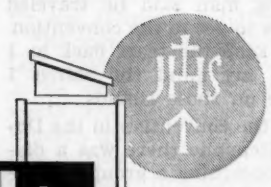
was covered with a blanket of snow and the snow was still falling. But do you think that kept our ministers and laity from attending? No, indeed! Over the mountains and plains came our faithful people. Some had to keep their speed down to 10 miles per hour to keep from sliding off the mountains and desert roads, but when they reached their destination they were warmed and fired up with the power of the Holy Ghost. Each service was well-planned by the state overseer, Brother E. W. Carden. The guest speaker for the night services was the assistant general overseer, the Reverend James A. Cross, who delivered two of the most soul-stirring messages! The topics of his messages were "The Church Shall Not Be Moved" and "The Open Door."

The day services were well-attended and the sermons were delivered by the new ministers in the State: Brother Bill Parson, Brother James Rickles, Brother W. H. Shell, Brother William Holderby, and Sister Frances Swalles. The special singing was at its best. Brother Charles Batson from Wyoming rendered a solo. Another out-of-town visitor was the state youth director of Wyoming, Brother Donald Milberry. The services were good "to the last drop." The last service, which was the night of January 15, was the best and just what all of us needed to make us go back to our churches and fight to win souls and encourage the members and friends of the Church.

That night Brother Cross delivered a soul-stirring message. As Sister Frances Carden played on the organ "Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow" all of the ministers lined up at the altar and Brother Cross prayed for them that God would help them to be a greater blessing to humanity. A great sweep of the Holy Spirit visited the congregation and testimonies were given by ministers, ministers' wives, and laity, that they were ready to adjourn and start back over the icy roads to their homes, and fight the devil with all their might.

—Mrs. Lucille Rickles, Reporter

WOMEN TO PREACH A REVIVAL WITH BROTHER PAINTER, OVERSEER OF KANSAS, AS OUR EVANGELIST. THREE WERE SAVED, 4 SANCTIFIED, 4 FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND MANY REFILLED WITH A GREATER DESIRE TO DO MORE FOR THE LORD. THERE WERE MANY DEFINITE HEALINGS. MY WIFE WAS BENT ALMOST DOUBLE WITH MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM, AND GOD HEALED HER, FOR WHICH WE GIVE GOD THE PRAISE. THERE WERE 4 ADDED TO THE CHURCH AND MANY MORE TO COME AS RESULTS OF THIS MEETING. —Chester Shaner, pastor



revivals

Pastor's Wife Healed of Muscular Rheumatism

KANSAS CITY, Kans.—We are glad to report a very successful revival with Brother Luther Painter, Overseer of Kansas, as our evangelist. Three were saved, 4 sanctified, 4 filled with the Holy Ghost, and many refilled with a greater desire to do more for the Lord. There were many definite healings. My wife was bent almost double with muscular rheumatism, and God healed her, for which we give God the praise. There were 4 added to the Church and many more to come as results of this meeting. —Chester Shaner, pastor

Good Preaching and Singing by Evangelist and Wife

ROME, Ga.—We have just closed a three weeks' revival at the North Rome Church of God. Brother and Sister Ronnie Jenkins were the evangelists. They did some wonderful preaching and singing under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Twelve were saved, 6 sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost, and 3 united with the Church. The church as a whole was spiritually uplifted. Brother D. T. Toler is our pastor. —Bernice Robinson, reporter

Pastor and Wife Are Good Example to Their Church

DALTON, Ga.—A ten nights' revival proved a blessing in the Dalton Church of God. Sister Homer Miller was the evangelist. Twelve were saved, 10 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 3 united with the Church. God is still blessing. We are glad of our good pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister E. O. Kerce. They are truly an example to the flock. The Junior girls' class collected coupons and money for the Church of God Home for Children. The one who collected the most received a prize. The winner was Carolyn Engle. They collected

3,000 coupons and \$15.00 in money. We praise the Lord for our good church and the goodness of God. Pray for us to be ever true and faithful. —Mrs. W. F. Gentry, reporter

Church Blessed by Revival

MARIETTA, Ohio.—The Church of God in Marietta, Ohio, has just closed a three weeks' revival with Sister Ruth Justin as the evangelist. She certainly did some good preaching. There were a number saved during this revival and the church was greatly blessed. —Reporter

Seventeen Converted in Missouri Revival

BONNE TERRE, Mo.—The Bonne Terre Church had a great revival! The church was blessed with a great soul-saving revival. The Reverend Donald Crane, of Dexter, Missouri, was the evangelist. The revival began on March 7 and continued 18 nights. Seventeen were saved, 7 sanctified, 6 filled with the Holy Ghost, 13 baptized in water, and 11 added to the Church. This was one of the greatest revivals the church has had in many years. I can sincerely recommend Brother Crane to any pastor as a minister who will bless your church with his ministry. —W. W. Snuffer, pastor

"Old-Time Holiness" Preached

PARROTT, Va.—We are happy and rejoicing in the Lord, to report a good three weeks' revival. The Reverend John L. Hanks is the pastor and the Reverend Burnice Heath was the evangelist. Fasting and praying added much to the success of this revival. The evangelist preached old-time holiness. Eight were saved, 7 sanctified, 3 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 5 added to the Church. Several re-

newed their covenant with the Lord. The whole church was blessed, because every word of God is pure. He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him (Proverbs 30:5). —Elbert L. Cox, reporter

Eighteen Converted in Alabama Revival

GUNTERSVILLE, Ala.—We have just closed a revival with Brother N. E. Wright and Brother H. G. Murphy as the evangelists. Eighteen were saved, 12 sanctified, and 8 baptized with the Holy Ghost. Eight were united with the Church. We thank God for His wonderful blessings at the Joppa Church of God. —Sister Ollie Hudgins, secretary

Thirty Saved in Detroit

DETROIT, Mich.—We wish to report another great revival just closed at the Trumbull Avenue Church of God. Brother Bobby A. Rose, of Pryor, Oklahoma, was the evangelist. He has a real fire of evangelism burning in his soul. Thirty were saved, 25 sanctified, 20 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 12 added to the Church. These were all new members. The church here is moving on in a great way. During the time Brother Rose was with us we had the largest crowds we have ever had. Many nights people had to stand because all seats were taken. —Melvin Rice, clerk

Young Evangelist Leads Fifty to Christ

WINCHESTER, Ky. — Old-time revivals are not a thing of the past; however, they are often sung about, spoken of, wished for and prayed for. Well, a great revival really came to the Church of God here at Franklin Avenue in Winchester, Kentucky. The number of unconverted young folk here at the Franklin Avenue Church has continued to grow for over a period of a year, and the church realized that it was in need of a youth revival. The church began to pray for a revival and then a series of cottage prayer meetings were held in each section of the city with the emphasis on youth for Christ. On March 10, the Reverend James Swilley, of Cleveland, Tennessee, came to our church to begin a revival. The first night old-time conviction began to move in the congregation, and each father and mother began to pray that their

children would be saved in this revival. The night of Monday, March 11, Brother Swilley preached a powerful sermon on "Christ, Our Redemption" and 7 young persons came forward to accept Christ as their redemption. It would be impossible for me to tell you just what happened from that night until the revival was over. Night after night the altar was full of young and old alike asking Christ for His wonderful grace. Jesus Christ gave His grace and 50 souls were saved. We, of the Franklin Avenue Church, wish to express our appreciation to the Reverend and Mrs. James Swilley for the wonderful work they did in our church. They were not only a fine evangelistic team, but were wonderful house guests. May God bless them in their work is the prayers of our church.

—George W. Wilson

Holy Spirit Uses Evangelist During Meeting

GRENADA, Miss.—We just closed a two-week revival with the Reverend J. W. Bennett as the evangelist. Brother Bennett is a consecrated man of God. His ministry proved a real blessing to our church. Seven were saved, 6 sanctified, 6 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 2 added to the Church. We deeply appreciate what God has done for us here at the Grenada Church of God, and the way the Holy Spirit worked through Brother Bennett during these revival services. His ministry will prove a blessing to any church.

—H. P. Ford, Jr., pastor

Church Blessed By Revival

DONALSONVILLE, Ga. — Praise the Lord for what He is doing for our church at Mt. Zion. A large number were saved and 10 were added to the Church. We praise the Lord for our pastor and his family and what they are doing. Our church is in better condition than it has been in a long time. Praise the Lord for sending Brother Oglesby to our church for a week end. He took up a special offering for the pastor, and approximately \$77.50 was raised in a barbecue supper. Our church is moving on for the Lord. The Holy Ghost is blessing. I should like to praise the Lord, also, for what He has done for my family. My oldest son and his wife were saved and now belong to the great Church of God. Help me to pray for the rest of my family to be saved and for this community to be stirred more than ever before.

—Mrs. R. A. White, reporter

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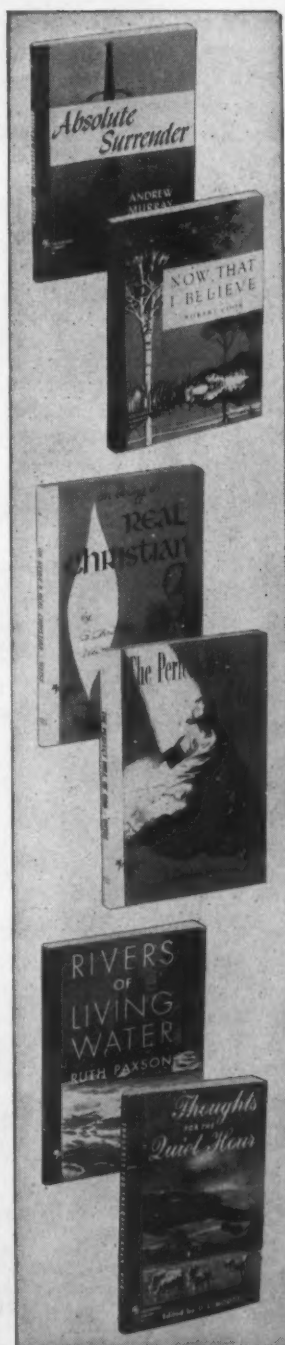
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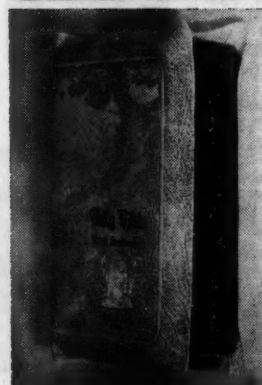
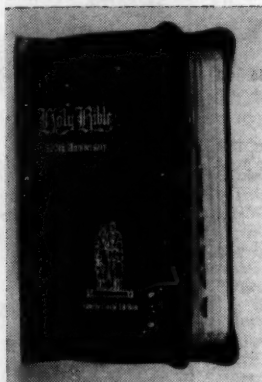
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